THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Although National Institute of Oceanography has been working on two KNOWN Species of Horseshoe Crab from the coast of Orissa and West Bengal, no NEW Species of horseshoe crab has been reported by them.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of an Institute on Vedantic Studies

4. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an institute for higher studies in Indian thought with emphasis on Vedantic studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The queston of setting up of an Institute Shankaracharya Institute for Indian Thought and Culture by the Department of Culture is in the preliminary stages. The objective to impart higher studies in Indian thought giving emphasis on Vedantic Studies. The courses will include M Phil and Ph.D. It will, however, not impart studies in comparative philosophy.

Birth centenaries of National leaders

5. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of national leaders whose birth centenary celebrations have been organised by Government during the last three years and the expenditure incurred on each; and

(b) what are the details of the major projects commenced during the centenary years and which are still continuing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Apprehension regarding disappearance of traditional varieties of trees by planting fast growing varieties

6. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present policy of reforestation is concentrating on planting fast-growing varieties of trees with the result that the traditional varieties of trees commonly found in Indian forests are likely to eventually disappear; and

(b) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken to ensure that the denuded forest areas are replanted with the same types of trees which existed there earlier, so as to restore the previous ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Fast growing varieties of trees have been planted under social forestry programme with the aim of providing fuelwood and fodder to rural people. Monoculture-plantations are being discouraged. Under the programme of regeneration of degraded forest land, the indigenous varieties of trees would be planted so as to restore the ecological balance which existed before the denudation of the forests.